

the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals appealed to the Foundation for aid. The Society reported 80 to 90 per cent mortality among the dogs attacked. To this plea were added those of a number of veterinarians in Stockton and elsewhere.

Recently two human cases of the disease were contracted in California, presumably through the handling of dogs. Both were veterinarians, one in San Francisco and the other in Stockton. Both passed through a long and serious course of illness before recovery. Numerous other cases of human attack were reported, one fatal, but the infection could not be directly traced to dogs.

The nature of the disease was established in the laboratories of the Hooper Foundation, where it was determined that a spirochete, technically called the *Leptospira*, was the causative factor. Simultaneous studies had established that the disease or one of its close relatives had been prevalent in Holland at one time, and had been checked by a certain serum developed there. Quantities of this serum were obtained and this, together with serum obtained from convalescent dogs, was used for the California outbreaks. The latest reports state that the treatment has been generally successful.

The serum is obtainable at the Hooper Foundation at the present time, where it may be obtained by all qualified veterinarians. It is hoped to have it placed on the market within the next few months.

Warning has been sent the veterinarians of the state to watch not only for the infection in dogs but for human infection as well, and to report all cases at once to the Hooper Foundation.

**Symposium on Mental Health.**—The Section on Medical Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science announces a Symposium on Mental Health to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the association at Richmond, Virginia, from December 28 to 30, 1938, and cordially invites the attendance and participation of all interested persons.

#### A Coöperative Project

Collaborating in the plans for the event are the American Psychiatric Association (an affiliated body of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the United States Public Health Service, the Mental Hospital Survey Committee (composed of representatives of eight national medical bodies), the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and a special committee of eminent psychiatrists who are developing the program for the symposium under the chairmanship of Dr. Walter L. Treadway, formerly assistant surgeon general of the Public Health Service.

#### Purpose of the Symposium

The symposium will provide an unusual opportunity to bring the great problem of mental health before the forum of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and, through it, to the scientific and lay public of America. It will be the tenth in the series of symposia held by the Section on Medical Sciences since 1934 and the first to deal with this important subject. All who have a serious interest in the subject will be welcome—scientists and laymen, professional workers and others—for the mental hygiene movement is a *public movement*, including among its adherents representatives from all walks of life and courting the good-will and support of all in its far-reaching aims and activities.

Its object will be, essentially, to present a synthesis of existing knowledge of the mental health problem, to evaluate past experience, crystallize aims and objectives and to marshal the scientific forces of the nation for a concerted, coordinated and more effective attack on mental disorders and disease. By drawing on the various scientific disciplines, within and without the field of mental hygiene, that are in a position to contribute new knowledge, we hope to

light up the problem as never before and to arrive at a new and better orientation in dealing with it on its practical as well as theoretic side.\*

**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

#### Absentee Vote Boosts Eaton Lead on Scott†

Mayor Thomas M. Eaton, Republican of Long Beach, in the lead over Democratic Congressman Byron N. Scott in the Eighteenth District race, today forged still further ahead when in the counting of absentee ballots he received 105 additional votes to 94 tallied for Scott. The count is expected to be completed late today.

In the standing before the race entered the final swing of the counting of the absentee ballots today, Eaton led the incumbent by 106 votes, having polled in the election a total of 51,732 against Scott's 51,626. In the count today six votes were recorded for Solomon Carr, Progressive from Bellflower.

The ballots are being rapidly canvassed and will be completed late today if the present speed is maintained, according to Deputy County Counsels Beach Vasey and Curtis Smith, who are on hand to pass on any legal questions that may arise during the official tally.

Congressman Scott, with his observers, is attending the count while Eaton is represented by Attorney John F. McCarthy.

Scott supporters said there was strong possibility that the absentee ballots might win for Scott because most of them are from Navy or Marine Corps men, and Scott is an active member of the House naval affairs committee. Eaton's supporters, however, were confident he would retain his lead.

Democratic observers, led by Scott, were making no challenges. But the Republicans challenged 110 ballots on grounds of improper addressing. Most of these were from CCC and SRA camps, and from Washington, D. C.

Vasey ruled that an absentee ballot cannot be counted after it is challenged unless the party who marked it is present to defend it.

The ballot, however, may later be counted by the courts in the event the contest is carried there for determination.

A total of 765 absentee ballots are being tabulated out of a total of 964 returned. Approximately 199 have been challenged and rejected for failure of voters to comply with absentee ballot law requirements.—Los Angeles *Herald*, November 16.

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#### Long Beach City Election Interests Congressman Scott†

Representative Byron N. Scott in a radio speech last night made the double announcement that the congressional fight in this district is not ended and that the campaign for Long Beach's municipal election next year is starting. He charged that the challenging of absentee voters' ballots in the November 8 election, in which he, the Democratic incumbent and candidate for reelection, was defeated, on the face of semi-official returns, by Mayor Thomas M. Eaton, Republican, had disfranchised Democratic voters entitled to vote. . . .

#### Eaton Holds Lead

With the count of absentee ballots, Mayor Eaton had a lead of 288 votes over Representative Scott in the November 8 election. His plurality, with absentee ballots excluded from consideration, was 106. Of the absentee ballots, eighty-two were challenged, sixty-nine by Eaton observers and thirteen by Scott supporters; 122 ballots were rejected by the tabulating officials for improper execution.

Had Scott received all of the challenged votes and all of those rejected by election officials, Eaton still would have had a plurality on the basis of the semi-official count, it has been pointed out.

The official canvass of November 8 votes now is being made by the Board of Supervisors. Probably the incumbent's move for a recount of the Eighteenth Congressional District vote will be made after completion of the official canvass.

\* Correspondence in relation to the symposium should be addressed to the Administrative Office, Symposium on Mental Health, A. A. A. S., Room 822, 50 West Fifth Street, New York City, Paul O. Komora, Administrative Secretary.

† This item is of interest because it was Congressman Scott who, in the last session of Congress, introduced the bill to investigate the American Medical Association (CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, May, 1938, page 306).

Later reports of the absentee vote showed Mayor Eaton to have been elected by several hundred votes.

It will be impossible for a court contest of the Eaton-Scott votes to be launched until after the official canvass will have been certified by Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan.

That was the opinion expressed today by Registrar of Voters W. M. Kerr.

Kerr said that the official canvass in behalf of Los Angeles County will not be certified until November 29.

#### Long Delay Seen

At least a week will be required before returns can be forwarded to Sacramento and certified by the Secretary of State.

Then the result is open to challenge in the courts.

Under the sequence of events, it would appear that the final outcome of the race more than likely will be delayed until the Christmas holidays.

Registrar Kerr today stated definitely that he will not include 142 rejected absentee votes in his canvass total nor will he include eighty-nine challenged votes.

"The counting of these votes will be a matter for the courts to decide, if there is a contest," Kerr said this morning.

The election contest must be brought within thirty days from the time the totals are certified in Sacramento by the Secretary of State.—Long Beach Press-Telegram.

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#### Los Angeles County Supervisors Seek \$100,000 From United States for Health Survey

Steps to obtain \$100,000 for a health survey throughout California were taken by the Board of Supervisors when a motion was passed calling on Dr. Walter M. Dickie, state health officer, to appeal to federal authorities for funds under the proposed congressional bill which would set up \$850,000,000 for health work throughout the nation.

Supervisor John Anson Ford stated that California and Los Angeles County should be prepared to obtain all possible benefits under the proposed bill, and he expressed the belief that the state would get an excellent start by making a competent survey of all persons afflicted with various diseases in California.

The board's motion suggested that Doctor Dickie make his appeal to the surgeon-general of the United States—Los Angeles Herald, November 16.

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#### Doctor Gibbons Will Head Fair Hospital

Dr. Morton R. Gibbons, Sr., noted surgeon in his own right and fifth in a family of medical men, will be in charge of the hospital to be operated at Treasure Island next year. He inspected the new facilities yesterday.

The hospital, already completed, is housed in the north wing of the Administration Building. The Exposition Hospital, modern in every respect, will be maintained, after the fair closes its doors, as a permanent adjunct of the airport.

Doctor Gibbons is a past president of the California Medical Association and past medical director of the State Industrial Accident Commission.

The hospital probably will be manned by three or four doctors and an equal number of nurses. Exposition officials are not expecting any trouble but "after all it's a city for millions next year and we have to be prepared for anything," one officer said.—San Francisco Chronicle, November 4.

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#### Medical Care Offered Needy Farm Families

##### Farm Security Administration Operates Programs in Seventeen States

#### Special to The News

Washington, October 18.—Special medical care programs for low-income farm families are now in operation or in process of preparation in sixteen states besides California, Farm Security Administration said today.

The announcement indicates the extent to which rehabilitation of farm families in their own states is being attempted to prevent further westward migration.

Statewide medical care programs go into effect in North and South Dakota on November 1.

#### Agreements are Reached

Agreements have been reached with state medical associations in North Carolina, Wisconsin, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado, and programs are being discussed with local medical authorities.

Farm Security Administration will loan each needy farm family signing up for the North and South Dakota programs a total of \$16, or \$2 a month for the rest of this fiscal year. The money will be turned over to a special corporation in each state.

#### Supervisor To Be Named

The corporation will allocate the funds between physicians, dentists, hospitals, pharmacists, and nurses. Families signing up will then be eligible for medical, dental, or hospital care from any members of the professional organization.

In each state an officer nominated by the medical association but paid by the state health department, will serve as general medical supervisor and arbitrator, passing on the bills submitted to prevent excessive charges.—San Francisco News, October 21, 1938.

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#### Health Department Seeks More Power

##### Doctor Geiger Says Authority Needed to Meet Emergencies

An ordinance to provide the San Francisco Health Department with greater authority in its battle with diseases and epidemics was urged by Director J. C. Geiger today in a letter to City Attorney John J. O'Toole. Doctor Geiger said his department now must rely on a state statute for authority in emergencies.—San Francisco News, November 7, 1938.

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#### San Mateo Health Survey

San Mateo County civic clubs, the County Medical Association and the new Ministerial Association appeared today before the Board of Supervisors to demand that a request for a Federal survey of health conditions be made to the United States Public Health Service.

The demand was a climax to a long fight for the survey, which apparently had ended in September when the supervisors promised to request the survey. They wrote the letter but never mailed it.

Failure to get the letter off resulted in new protests, leading to today's meeting. The Medical Association declared Surgeon General Thomas Parran had wired them assurance of his willingness to order a survey once request had been made formal.—San Francisco News, November 1, 1938.

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#### California Voters To Ballot in 12,472 Precincts

Sacramento, October 22—UP).—California voters will cast their ballots November 8 at 12,472 precincts, an increase of forty-three over the number of voting places at the August 30 primary elections, Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan announced.

The number of precincts in each county follow:

Alameda, 1,273; Alpine, 5; Amador, 25; Butte, 124; Calaveras, 33; Colusa, 28; Contra Costa, 176; Del Norte, 20; Eldorado, 36; Fresno, 252; Glenn, 35; Humboldt, 117; Imperial, 83; Inyo, 30; Kern, 228; Kings, 54; Lake, 32; Lassen, 50; Los Angeles, 4,482; Madera, 42; Marin, 109; Mariposa, 22; Mendocino, 88; Merced, 68; Modoc, 23; Mono, 8; Monterey, 109; Napa, 51; Nevada, 42; Orange, 246; Placer, 64; Plumas, 30; Riverside, 166; Sacramento, 338; San Benito, 29; San Bernardino, 358; San Diego, 483; San Francisco, 1,055; San Joaquin, 233; San Luis Obispo, 79; San Mateo, 240; Santa Barbara, 130; Santa Clara, 294; Santa Cruz, 109; Shasta, 55; Sierra, 16; Siskiyou, 73; Solano, 79; Sonoma, 167; Stanislaus, 121; Sutter, 31; Tehama, 54; Trinity, 26; Tulare, 139; Tuolumne, 34; Ventura, 100; Yolo, 44; Yuba, 34. Total, 12,472.

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#### Meet to Discuss Humane Pound Act

A public meeting to discuss the State Humane Pound Act, Proposition No. 2 on the November ballot will be held by the California Animal Defense and Antivivisection League next Tuesday, at 8 p. m. in Burdette Hall, Philharmonic Auditorium, according to an announcement made today by the California Citizens' Committee, sponsoring this act.

Guest of honor will be Leo Carillo, motion picture actor who has endorsed the measure.

Rollin McNitt, Los Angeles attorney, will speak on the legal aspects of this initiative measure. Dr. Wolf Adler, prominent physician, will refute the argument, that this measure is an antivivisection bill, it was announced. Other speakers will include Dr. P. M. Lovell and W. I. Clendenon, who will be chairman.

Carillo in endorsing the State Humane Pound Act said, "Look into a dog's eyes and you will find no greater love, faithfulness and sincerity. Give our dumb friends a chance by voting yes on Proposition No. 2."—Los Angeles Evening Herald-Express, October 22.

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#### Prostituting the Initiative!

In several states by constitutional amendment the people have the right to vote directly on legislation which they themselves initiate or on measures already passed by the legislature. By this means the laws of the state may be

made more clearly to reflect the will of a majority of the voters. The initiative procedure, however beneficial its attributes may be theoretically, has unfortunately been utilized by small groups to foster schemes for selfish ends. On November 8 the people of three states will vote on measures initiated by such groups.

In California a measure initiated by a small group of emotionalists seeks to cripple scientific research in the state by making it difficult if not impossible to procure animals for experimental purposes. In Oklahoma an initiative measure proposes, among other things, to permit hospitals legally to enter into contracts for medical services, if the hospital is organized "on a mutual and cooperative non-profit plan in connection with some recognized farm or labor union or church or charitable organization." In Colorado, initiative amendment No. 2 proposes by constitutional amendment to guarantee to every person in the state the exclusive right to choose his own state license system of healing and physician for state-required examinations or for therapeutic services in connection with state compensation or other insurance benefits and to open the doors of all tax-supported or partially tax-supported corrective, therapeutic or eleemosynary or other public institutions in the state to the cultists. The Colorado amendment, if adopted, will repeal the basic science act enacted by the legislature in 1937, will deprive the legislature of any future right to exercise its police power in protecting the people from the ministrations of incompetent healers and will devolve on any profession recognized by the state the "exclusive right to examine, license and regulate the practice of its own members through its own legally constituted power or authority."

It seems inconceivable that these measures will receive the approval of the voters in these three states. The tragedy lies in the fact that a procedure conceived in the public interest may be invoked and utilized for purposes inimical to that public interest.—*Journal of the American Medical Association*, November 5, 1938.

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#### His Good Deeds Stand Out

His mortal eyes forever closed, Pasadena today pauses to acknowledge its debt to Dr. Walter P. Bliss. It is a greater debt than it is possible for the general public for the moment justly to appraise. That can be done only by those in individual homes and in hospitals who have been the beneficiaries of his skill and of his kind and encouraging words.

Whatever his weaknesses, a mantle of charity now covers them. Looming out above them and shining clear are good deeds that cannot be, will not be, forgotten by the community.

In the course of his years of practice many and many were the sad souls who turned to Dr. Bliss in their hours of pain and anguish. Their pain and anguish he relieved. His own pain and anguish was more than he could bear. Now he rests, his earthly labors ended and his debts all paid.

Mingled with regrets over the tragic passing of Doctor Bliss are feelings of sympathy for the ones who, until sorrow came into it, made home happy for him, and which he in turn made happy for them.

Doctor Bliss will be remembered gratefully for his noteworthy services to mankind long after his human frailties, no matter what they were, have passed from mind. Editorial Views of the Pasadena *Star-News*, by Charles H. Prisk: Pasadena *Star-News*, November 4.

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#### Elixir Maker Pleads Guilty

Kansas City, October 19—(AP).—Dr. Samuel E. Massengill, pharmaceutical manufacturer, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge in connection with the transportation of an elixir of sulfanilamide before Federal Judge Merrill E. Otis today and was fined \$9,500.

The American Medical Association attributed seventy-three deaths last year to use of the compound.—*Los Angeles Times*, October 20.

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#### Tulare Loses Federal Office to Visalia

The county office of the recently established Agricultural Workers' Health and Medical Association has been moved from Tulare to Visalia, where it is now located at 1110 East Main Street. It was formerly in the Young building here.

The Agricultural Workers' Health and Medical Association is a government agency to provide medical care for needy transients. It dispenses federal funds, certifying to private physicians and private hospitals sick or injured transients who have not been in California long enough to qualify for county aid. Unfortunately, the bulk of such cases in Tulare County are in the southwestern part of the county, and will now have a trek to Visalia and back to make when seeking aid.—*Tulare Advance Register*, November 4, 1938.

#### Geiger Warns of Rabies Danger

Dr. J. C. Geiger, San Francisco health officer, today urged police and public cooperation to prevent spread of the San Mateo County rabies epidemic which has claimed eighteen victims of mad dog bites in the past ten days.

"Because most dogs in San Francisco are kept in apartments, danger to humans is greater than in any other area except New York City," Geiger declared.

Meantime, parents of Robert Stentiford, age fourteen, of Menlo Park, who have steadfastly refused to allow the boy's submission to treatment after he was believed to have been bitten by a rabid dog, declined to comment today. All other known victims have been treated.

With San Mateo County and nearby San Jose under rigid surveillance for signs of rabies, Doctor Geiger issued these precautions to San Franciscans:

Permit no contact between your dog and strays; report all stray dogs to the pound; have your veterinary advise concerning prophylaxis; have all dog bites treated within an hour; keep your dog on a leash and if your dog appears ill seek a veterinary's advice.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, October 24.

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#### Health Insurance Topic

"Health Insurance vs. 'The Free Practice' of Medicine" will be discussed by Dr. Barbara Armstrong, nationally known authority on social insurance and professor of law at the University of California, next Sunday evening when the Haskalah Club holds its November meeting at the Western Women's Building. An open forum will follow.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, November 9, 1938.

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#### State Medical Men See New Hospital

Dr. William W. Roblee, President, and Dr. George Kress, Secretary, of the California State Medical Society, visited the Butte County infirmary this week. They inspected the buildings and conferred with Dr. L. A. Jacoby, county physician, and Archie Allen, superintendent, Dr. Jacoby said.—*Oroville Mercury Register*, November 4, 1938.

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#### Camp to Start Own "Hospital"

Salinas, November 8.—As suddenly as it started, the "relief" war between county, state, and federal governments over Camp Ord ended today.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors, representatives of the SRA and WPA—Dr. John C. Sharp, medical and health director for the county, and Welfare Director W. H. Leach—reached a solution to the problem which last week saw the board refuse further aid to the 585 Camp Ord indigents on the ground they were not county residents.

County officers were informed that camp directors will undertake a hospital program of their own, thus relieving the county of the burden of extending aid to injured and sick camp members.

The county, on the other hand, promised to continue aid to forty-eight SRA clients, all county residents, employed at the camp but not a regular part of the WPA project.

In addition, the county hospital will take care of "emergency cases which the Camp Ord hospital staff is unable to handle, either through lack of facilities or otherwise," Chairman Andrew B. Jacobsen said.—*San Jose Mercury-Herald*, November 9, 1938.

## LETTERS

Subject: Status of osteopathic licenses.

(COPY)

San Francisco, October 31, 1938.

Ralph H. Cowing, Esq.

Deputy Attorney-General

State Library and Courts Building

Sacramento, California

Re: *Jordt vs. California State Board of Education*; No. 58214, Department No. 3.

Dear Mr. Cowing:

I have now had an opportunity fully to examine your letter of October 27 and enclosed copies of briefs presented to the Superior Court by Mr. Brannely, attorney for Jordt, and yourself, as attorney for the State Board of Education.